

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. ~~A method of recognizing handwriting, comprising:~~
 obtaining a sample of handwriting;
 segmenting said sample into separate handwritten
 words; and
 attempting to recognize a whole handwritten word
 without attempting to recognize any individual letter of
~~the whole handwritten word.~~

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2. A method as in claim 1, wherein said recognizing
 comprises determining a silhouette of the word, and
 matching said silhouette to one of a plurality of reference
 silhouettes.

3. A method as in claim 2, wherein said recognizing
 comprises determining features of the silhouette.

4. A method as in claim 3, wherein said features of
 the silhouette includes high-profile features, and low
 profile features, and locations of said high-profile
 features and said low-profile features.

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1 5. A method as in claim 3, wherein said determining
2 features comprises determining prime features.

1 6. A method as in claim 5, further comprising super
2 enclosing said prime features to form hybrid features.

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A2

1 7. A method as in claim 6, further comprising
2 sorting said features by first syllable blends.

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1 8. A method as in claim 1, wherein said ~~attempting~~
2 comprises categorizing said whole hidden handwritten word
3 according to its overall silhouette.

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A3

1 9. A method as in claim 8, wherein said categorizing
2 comprises categorizing positions of features in said
3 handwritten word, and categorizing first syllable blends of
4 said handwritten word.

1 10. A method as in claim 1, wherein said sample of
2 handwriting includes family names.

1 11. A method as in claim 10, further comprising
2 forming a list of a plurality of family names, and forming
3 silhouette information about said plurality of family

4 names, and comparing said separate handwritten words to
5 said plurality of family names.

1 12. A method as in claim 11, wherein said comparing
2 comprises forming silhouette information, and comparing
3 said silhouette information into said silhouette
4 information about said plurality of family names.

1 13. A method as in claim 12, wherein said silhouette
2 information includes information about the presence of high
3 and low parts in the written word and the position of those
4 high and low parts.

1 14. A method as in claim 12 wherein said silhouette
2 information includes first syllable blends in the word.

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1 15. ~~A method, comprising:~~
2 analyzing a sample of handwriting by analyzing a whole
3 word of said sample at any one time, said analyzing
4 comprising forming information indicative of a silhouette
5 of said whole word, and comparing said information with a
6 ~~database of information about other silhouettes.~~

Sub 6-7
16. A method as in claim 15, wherein said database of
2 information comprises a database of information obtained
3 from a list of possible words.

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17. ~~A method as in claim 16 wherein said words are~~
2 ~~family names, and said list of possible words is a~~
3 ~~telephone book.~~

Sub 6-7
18. A method as in claim 15, wherein said silhouette
2 information includes information indicative of high parts
3 in the word and low parts in the word, and positions of
4 said high parts and low parts in the word.

19. A method as in claim 15, wherein said silhouette
2 information includes information about first syllable
3 blends in the word.

20. A method as in claim 18, wherein said silhouette
2 information also includes information about first syllable
3 blends in the word.

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21. ~~A method as in claim 15, wherein said silhouette~~
2 ~~information includes prime profiles indicative of specified~~

3 ~~features, and concatenated profiles indicative of~~
4 combinations at specified features.

1 22. A method as in claim 18, wherein each of a
2 plurality of silhouette information's is provided with a
3 ~~number.~~

1 42-7 23. A method as in claim 18, wherein each feature is
2 assigned a number.